**Robert Lundeen OSU Library Faculty Development Grant Report**

**END OF FUNDING PERIOD REPORT**

**Title of Project**: “Oral History Training”

**Applicant**: Chris Petersen

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**Time Period of Grant**: June 6-9, 2011

**Amount of Award Received**: $1,423

1. **ACCOMPLISHMENTS and EVALUATION**

Training

The intent of this grant was to receive travel support for my attendance of the “Catching Stories” oral history institute, sponsored by the Ohio Humanities Council and held at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. My successful application for Lundeen funds did result in my attending this training in June 2011.

The training was both intense and enriching. As detailed in the trip report that I published to the OSU Libraries wiki upon my return (<http://tinyurl.com/ohreport>) the training provided a thorough basis for understanding the issues inherent to oral history work and implementing a program in any given environment. Sessions were devoted to Planning a Project, Interviewing Technique, Transcription and Legal Issues.

Students were also required to plan and implement a set of oral history interviews with their colleagues and to present their projects at the end of the training. In addition, I consulted individually with one of the institute faculty on technical issues and returned home from the training with a set of specifications for recommended items to purchase in support of bolstering our own oral history program at OSU Libraries.

Projects

Following my return from Ohio, with the support of library administration I purchased a high end digital audio recorder, a lavalier microphone and some accessory items, and began seeking out oral history subjects. In consultation with Larry Landis, I identified several local individuals whose stories we wished to capture and began contacting subjects to set up times for recording.

Flashing forward to today, I have conducted over twenty interviews, mostly focusing on the history of science, with a special interest in those who knew and worked with Linus Pauling. One centerpiece of this project is a six-part series conducted with Steve Lawson, administrative officer at the Linus Pauling Institute, which documents the colorful history of the Institute prior to its arrival at OSU in 1996. I also completed a five-part series recording the life history of Dr. Kenneth Hedberg, OSC class of 1939, former associate of Linus Pauling and longtime member of the OSU Chemistry Department.

Other oral history subjects to date have included: Albert Kordesch, Erna Kordesch, Chris Mathews, Cheryl Pauling, Kay Pauling, Linus Pauling Jr. and Bill Robbins.

In January I also presented on oral history methods and issues to Dwaine Plaza’s SOC 518 class. The class was divided up into groups which were charged with conducting interviews with OSU figures to be deposited into the Voices of OSU oral history collection (OH 09). I have also consulted on an individual basis with others interested in conducting oral history interviews, including SCARC intern Hannah Mahoney, who is researching Vietnam War-era ROTC training at OSU.

Each interview conducted to date has been deposited on the SCARC server space, with a back-up copy of the original WAV recording saved to the libaries’ archival server, zeus. In addition, SCARC student staff have transcribed nearly all of the completed interviews. Likewise, each interview subject has granted their permission to preserve and provide access to the material, including free access over the Internet.

Future Subjects

In June I will be traveling to Hawaii to conduct a rigorous set of six interviews further documenting the life of Linus Pauling Jr. In collaboration with Natalia Fernandez, I will also be working with members of St. Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church in Portland to record and preserve the recollections of many of the church’s members. Additional oral history subjects have been identified for future contact, including OSU President Emeritus, Dr. John Byrne.

1. **IS YOUR PROJECT COMPLETED?**

**YES X NO**

1. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

**Original Budget**

Total amount requested from Lundeen Award Fund: **$1,423**

**Actual Budget**

* Airfare: $538.80
* Institute Tuition: $275.00
* OSU Motorpool Rental: $207.80
* Car Rental (in Ohio): $163.43
* Hotel (upon arrival in Columbus, Ohio): $127.26
* Airport Parking (PDX): $50.00
* Reimbursed Meals: $32.22

**Total: $1,394.51**

1. **SHARING YOUR PROJECT/RESULTS**

Immediately upon my return I compiled a detailed trip report and published it to the OSU Libraries wiki. I have also written an article on my oral history work for publication in the forthcoming edition of *The Messenger*.

In the coming months I will be creating a finding aid for the history of science-related oral history interviews that I have conducted and deposited into the Special Collections & Archives Research Center.

Longer term, it is my intent to publish the full text and/or audio of a large percentage of the department’s oral history collections to a portal on the department website. This portal would utilize the METS/MODS and TEI platforms that have been created and implemented for the ‘Events and Videos’ component of the current Special Collections department website. I am hopeful that work on this portal may begin in earnest in Summer/Fall 2012.

1. **NOTE**

Information included in this report may be reprinted or posted on the web for dissemination.